

Message Text

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ACTION EUR-25

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 AF-10 NEA-10 IO-14 CIAE-00 DODE-00

PM-07 H-03 INR-10 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-10 PA-04 RSC-01

PRS-01 SPC-03 SS-20 USIA-15 ACDA-19 NIC-01 OMB-01

SAJ-01 DRC-01 /160 W

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R 041805Z DEC 73

FM AMEMBASSY BRUSSELS

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 9306

INFO AMEMBASSY BONN

AMEMBASSY COPENHAGEN

AMEMBASSY DUBLIN

AMEMBASSY LONDON

AMEMBASSY LUXEMBOURG

AMEMBASSY PARIS

AMEMBASSY ROME

AMEMBASSY THE HAGUE

USMISSION EC BRUSSELS

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UNCLAS BRUSSELS 7027

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR, XF, EC, US, UK

SUBJECT: HEATH ON US-EUROPEAN RELATIONS, MIDDLE EAST AND
EC SUMMIT

1. BRITISH PRIME MINISTER HEATH, IN DECEMBER 3 BRUSSELS SPEECH
AT INAUGURATION OF PAUL-HENRI SPAAK FOUNDATION, REMARKED THAT
DIFFERING ANALYSES OF THE MIDDLE EAST SITUATION HAD LED TO
"TACTICAL MISUNDERSTANDING BETWEEN THE DIFFERENT SIDES OF THE
ATLANTIC". NOTING THAT THE GRADUAL FORMATION OF A COMMON FOREIGN
POLICY FOR EUROPE CREATES PROBLEMS IN US-EUROPEAN RELATIONS,
HEATH SAID THAT "IN THE OLD DAYS THE PREDOMINANCE OF THE US OVER
ANY SINGLE ONE OF ITS PARTNERS WAS SUCH THAT IN PRACTICE THE
VOICE OF THE US ALMOST AUTOMATICALLY PREVAILED." HE THEN SAID
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THAT SUCCESSIVE US PRESIDENTS AND SECRETARIES OF STATE HAD RE-

COGNIZED AND ACCEPTED THE FACT THAT EUROPEAN UNIFICATION WOULD LEAD TO AN ASSERTION OF EUROPEAN VIEWS ON WORLD AFFAIRS NOT ALWAYS IDENTICAL TO THE US VIEW. IN RETURN, HEATH ADDED, THE US MADE THE REASONABLE REQUEST THAT EUROPE ASSUME A GREATER SHARE OF RESPONSIBILITY IN THE FIELDS OF TRADE, AID TO THE THIRD WORLD, AND DEFENSE. THE LESSON DRAWN BY HEATH FROM THE DIFFERENCES THAT HAD ARISEN OVER THE MIDDLE EAST WAS THAT SUCH MATTERS MUST BE DISCUSSED AT AN EARLIER STAGE " IT IS THE RECONCILIATION OF GENUINELY DIFFERING JUDGEMENTS WHICH IS THE REAL TEST OF AN ALLIANCE OF FREE STATES."

2. HEATH ALSO DREW ANOTHER CONCLUSION FROM MIDDLE EAST EVENTS, NAMELY THE NEED FOR " A WESTERN EUROPE LESS DEPENDENT FOR ITS PROSPERITY AND SOCIAL PROGRESS ON EXTERNAL SOURCES OF ENERGY SUPPLIES". ACKNOWLEDGING THAT THIS IS A LONG-RANGE GOAL, HEATH DEFENDED THE EC NINE'S CURRENT POLICY TOWARD THE MIDDLE EAST, INCLUDING THE EC DECLARATION OF NOVEMBER 6, AND SAID "IT IS ONLY BY USING ALL THE RESOURCES OF FOREIGN POLICY THAT WE CAN HOPE TO GIVE EUROPE SECURE ACCESS TO THE OIL IT NEEDS".

3. AFTER SPEAKING IN GLOWING TERMS OF THE PROGRESS MADE BY THE EC NINE IN ECONOMIC AND POLITICAL COOPERATION, HEATH EXPRESSED THE VIEW THAT THE COPENHAGEN EC SUMMIT SHOULD BE THE FIRST IN A REGULAR SERIES OF INFORMAL MEETINGS AMONG HEADS OF STATE OR GOVERNMENT CONSULTING AS COLLEAGUES AND FRIENDS TO AGREE ON THE BROAD LINES OF EUROPE'S DEVELOPMENT. NOTING THAT BILATERAL HIGH-LEVEL CONTACTS SOMETIMES ARE SUSPECTED OF PRODUCING A DIRECTORATE OF CERTAIN COUNTRIES, HEATH SAID THAT REGULAR SUMMIT MEETINGS WILL DEMONSTRATE OTHERWISE.

4. COMMENT: BELGIAN RADIO REPORT INTERPRETED HEATH'S REMARKS ABOUT PAST US PREDOMINANCE AS AN ASSERTION THAT EUROPE'S ACTION WITH RESPECT TO THE MIDDLE EAST HAD AUGURED THE END OF EUROPEAN SUBMISSION TO THE US. OUR READING OF THE SPEECH, WHICH IS BEING POUCHED TO LONDON AND THE DEPARTMENT (EUR/NE), DOES NOT SUPPORT SUCH AN INTERPRETATION.
STRAUSZ-HUPE

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: FOREIGN RELATIONS, ARMISTICE, TRADE PROMOTION, FOREIGN POLICY POSITION
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 04 DEC 1973
Decaption Date: 01 JAN 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: n/a
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: n/a
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment:
Disposition Date: 01 JAN 1960
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1973BRUSSE07027
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: N/A
Errors: N/A
Film Number: n/a
From: BRUSSELS
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1973/newtext/t19731247/aaaabitr.tel
Line Count: 98
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE
Office: ACTION EUR
Original Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 2
Previous Channel Indicators:
Previous Classification: n/a
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: n/a
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: kellerpr
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 31 AUG 2001
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <31-Aug-2001 by thomasv0>; APPROVED <26-Dec-2001 by kellerpr>
Review Markings:

Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
30 JUN 2005

Review Media Identifier:
Review Referrals: n/a
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: HEATH ON US-EUROPEAN RELATIONS, MIDDLE EAST AND EC SUMMIT
TAGS: PFOR, XF, EC, US, UK
To: STATE
Type: TE
Markings: Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 30 JUN 2005